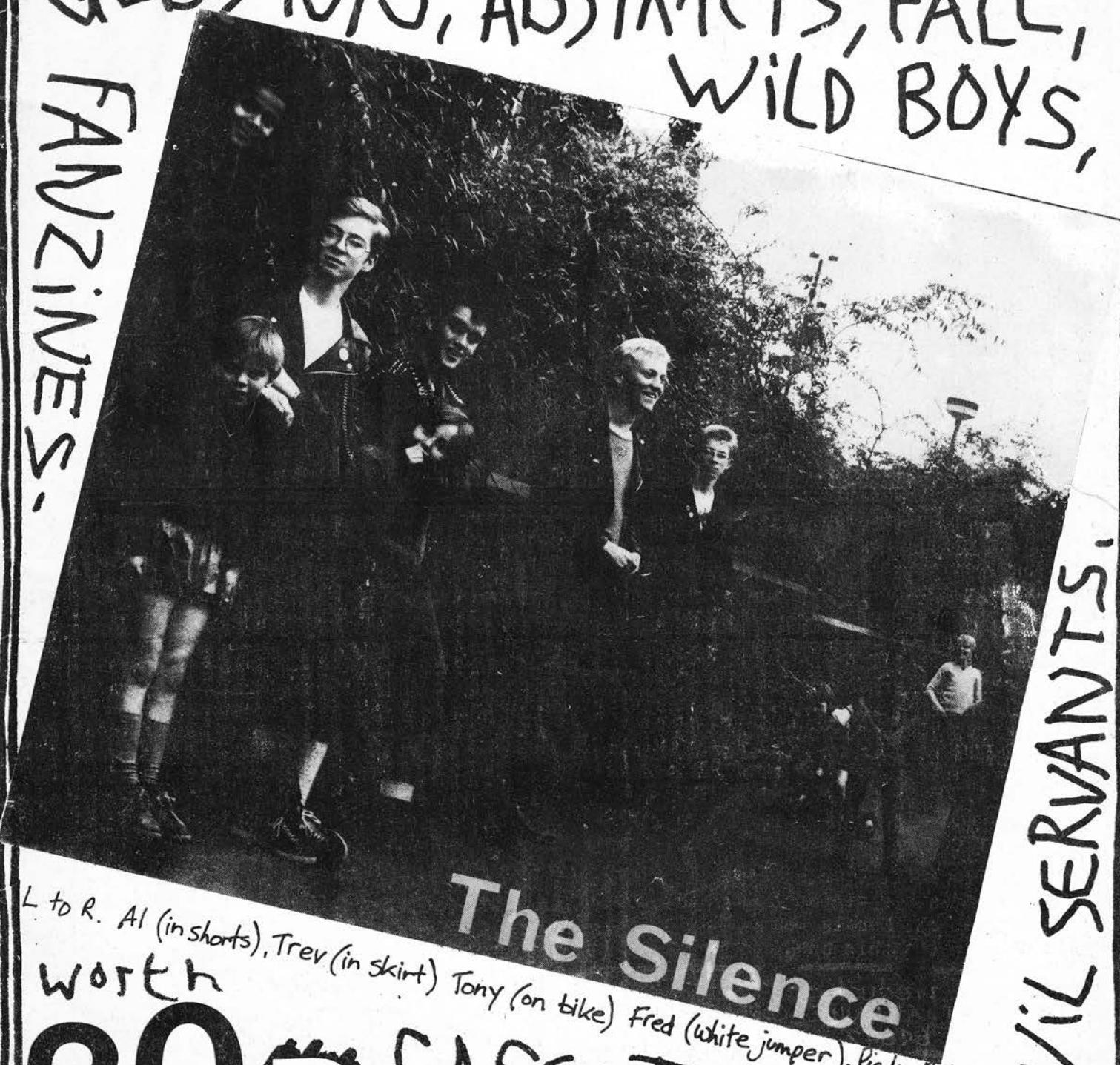


ALTERNATIVE SOUNDS: 17:

GODS TOYS, ABSTRACTS, FALL,
WILD BOYS,

FANZINES.

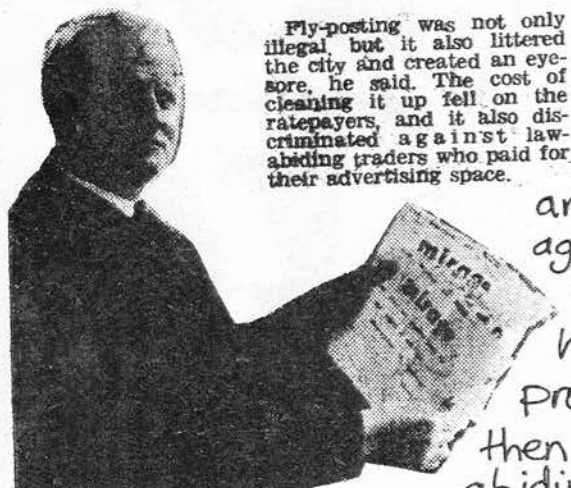


CIVIL SERVANTS.

L to R. Al (in shorts), Trev (in skirt) Tony (on bike) Fred (white jumper). Pic by Rob.
worth
30P CASSETTES.

fly-posters declare war on Council

COVENTRY City Council



Coun. Robinson

Fly-posting was not only illegal but it also littered the city and created an eyesore, he said. The cost of cleaning it up fell on the ratepayers, and it also discriminated against law-abiding traders who paid for their advertising space.

an article in the Cov. Eve. Telegraph a few weeks ago said how the Council were attacking Fly-posters. Until they realise that young bands have enough trouble publicising gigs and provide some legal space for fly posting, then they have no right to complain. The law abiding traders who pay for space are large

firms not bands who want to advertise a gig in a few days time. "Eyesore"! There seems to be a policy in Coventry of stamping on everything that doesn't look neat and in line with everything else and it makes me sick.

Please photocopy the picture of that prat above and stick him somewhere on your fly-posters in future as a sign you agree. I'll print the best ones sometime. **Prosecution**

I've got some back issues I could do with clearing out so I'm putting them down to giveaway price again. You can have them for 10p each, and that's including postage but if you do want them by post then I'll have to ask for a minimum of 20p just to cover it.

This is what's left....

ISSUE 2 - (still) Members, 1979 K.U. competition, reviews blah blah.

ISSUE 7 - (not many) Riot Act, The End, Daffo, lots more probably.

ISSUE 9 - Angelic Upstarts, Wild Boys, Matrix Hall festival.

ISSUE 12 - (anniversary issue) Steel Locks, Bron Area, Ramones etc, etc.

ISSUE 13 - (unlucky for some) Foto issue - courtesy Mark O. Lots of, um, "experimental" photos of local bands.

ISSUE 14 - (Double size!) Athletico Spizz, Column 88, Fan clubs, Photos (the group):

ISSUE 15 - (very few left) Criminal Class, Denizens, Flackoff, Accelerators, Cravats,

ISSUE 16 - (another big one) The Mix, Urge, Protege, Team 23, Mercia Sound, Human Cabs.

ISSUE 17 - that's this one.

This is a product of

143 MOAT AVENUE, COVENTRY CV3 6BW

Tel. COV. 69642

No gig guide this time I'm afraid. Look out for 'Bush Telegraph' which I might be helping with as it gives you most of the upcoming gigs

Yes, the rumour is true, this is to be the last 'Alternative Sounds' for quite a while - around 6 months or whenever I feel I want to write about some things. There's a few reasons - one is the fact I am starting up my own band - ATTRITION - and want time to make us rich and famous. Another is that I find less bands of interest in Coventry to write about at the moment - a low period perhaps. I also feel like writing about other things - not just strictly music, don't worry it will still be mainly music, but with a more open approach, no set articles (gig reviews/record reviews will be scarce) - for this reason I am thinking of changing the magazines name to ALTERNATIVES. In the meantime keep reading the other local 'zines' and I will be putting out limited monthly newsheets (Virgin/Wedge/Intershop) starting early January. So keep awake. See ya. Martin.

Dear Martin/Alternative Sounds,

I'd like to point out a few things to the group of mindless male twats that ruined the Gravediggers gig at The Hope 'n Anchor.

1) Your pathetic fighting ritual did not impress any one. It amused some people, it sickened others. It is amazing to observe how low, morons like you, can sink. You didn't give a shit for the people who were there to see the group- Christ! Do you really think the show you put on was worth an audience?

2) Aggression and its various expressions are a form of fear. Fear of masculinity - of being an inadequate and inferior man. Self doubts about your own beliefs and abilities. It is far easier to be in a mass. You feel secure. You like some other fucked up moron to be in control of your body and mind. It is called "being in a gang."

3) The "wardance" your performance thrives on, impersonality and behaviour distortion. It is not aggression it is suppressed aggression you are showing, which is violence. It is a total failure. It will rot away, eventually, any sense of individuality you had left. Then you will have no option but to "follow the crowd", You have to belong somewhere.

4) Constant violent physical contact within a group (that's you lot) is often psychologically viewed as suppressed sexuality or homosexuality. So stop and think about your motives the next time you are putting the boot in.

Brian Coalfield.

WANTED - Young drummer for Kenilworth new wave band. Must have own kit.

phone Bill on 92 52782

WANTED - Drummer to play with FAMOUS 5, own kit essential. Phone Kate (cov) 72735.

WANTED - guitarist for FLACKOFF. phone 021-772-7584 (days) and leave message.

if Rod of Flackoff reads this - can you send me a copy of your single - tell me how much I'll owe you. Ta. Martin.

Dear Martin,

I am the keyboard player for First Offence who you reviewed in A.S.16. The song title you missed was "Hit Man"; it is one of our newest songs and, had it been ready, would have been on the compilation EP.

Our guitarist/vocalist, Ian has left us and we will remain inactive until about Christmas while we rehearse our new one. Oh yeah! We did another gig with Profile at Eastern Green Village Hall. It appears that your idea of playing this type of venue is shit. Instead of bringing booze the kids brought glue. The owner of the hall came in and turned the mains off halfway through. The other group are a heavy metal band called Emerald. Watch out for them, they are a bunch of wankers. They took all the door money and a mike stand, guitar lead and cymbal stand. They mistreated our equipment and when they came on everyone left and Emerald played to about 50 people.

Thanx,

Paul Hurst,

First Offence
Contact address: Paul: Cov. 466336

Dear AS,

As this is the first time that I have used one of my many talents by writing to you it would be good for my ego if you printed my letter..

Firstly, I would like to say that I'm getting pissed off with being thrown out of decent pubs the moment I walk through the door just because I'm a punk. This is partly due to the stupid behaviour e.g. fighting and swearing etc. of some twats who obviously can't take their drink and start to show off therefore leaving us all branded as yobs.

Another reason is that the landlords must be getting tired of the name writing on the toilet walls eg Maxine and Tracy, who think that just because they like The Slits the whole world has to know about it, also Donna and Paula I think everyone has got the point by now that you like Slaughter as it's sprawled everywhere you look. So, whoever you all are PLEASE stop as you're giving us all a bad reputation.

I would also like to praise your fanzine, I think it's the best thing that's ever hit Cov. and it gets better every month. (This statement has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that I want my letter printed.)

Keep on truckin'
Linda Gee O.B.E.

"And here's the latest results...

The X-Certs have been reformed by Dave Pepper. He says they are completely different to the old X-Certs, playing more aggressive and wierder songs. Dave plays guitar and synth. Rex (ex-Editors) is playing bass for them, and they are using temporary drummers at the moment. The Editors played a gig in the HMV shop a couple of months ago - they just asked on the off chance and got to play - shows you what you can do if you try.

If any local bands have difficulty finding a place to rehearse then they could do what I did - book a schoolroom. You can book them in room 128 of the 'new' Council building and it'll cost you £4.20 for 3 hours - 7pm to 10pm. Great if you've got the money.

Look out for issues of 'Bush Telegraph' which is a newsheet run by Jed from the General Wolfe - it gives you news of gigs at the Wolfe / Belgrade, and other stuff too.

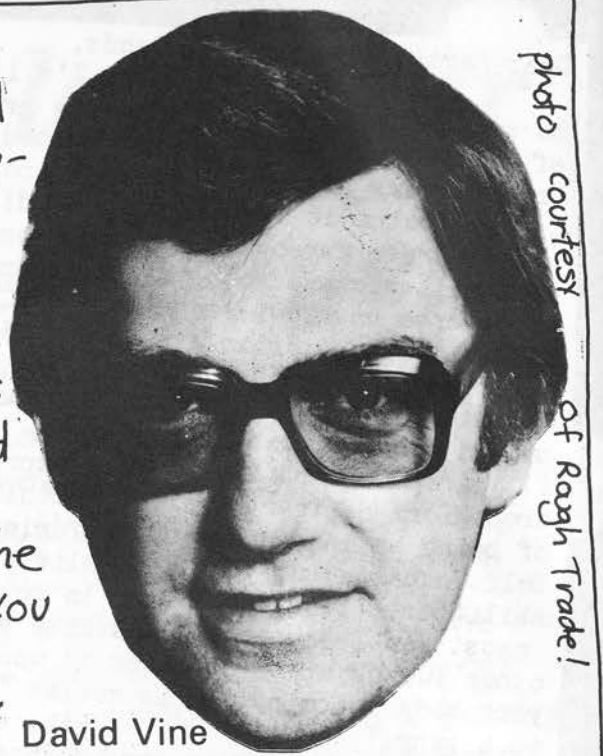


photo courtesy of Rough Trade!

David Vine
BBC TV Sports Commentator

Dear Martin,

Thanks for the review of the "Boys Game" demo tape in Alternative Sounds. Since then we've changed the name to Tarzan 5 (threatening to become Tarzan 6) and written quite a few songs. The band line-up has not changed a bit but a male singer may be added.

Record company reactions to "Boys Game" was nil from Stiff Records smug photostat reply to Cherry Red positive criticism that they thought we just didn't cut. (At least it was honest). Anyhow, until we do get a record out people can hear what we are doing by sending a blank cassette to Teach-Yourself Cassettes 18, Thwaites Rd., Oswaldtwistle, Lancs. On the tape enclosed is the sort of stuff you're going to get if anyone's smart enough to do so.

Thanks, Phil.

A good band with some interesting songs bass prominent, drums pound along, female vocals (mainly). They sound very exciting on the live bits. Also included is the excellent "Boys Game" I reviewed in issue 15. A collection of catchy modern pop songs with some jazz influences. The emphasis being on trying something new. Reggae influence as well. This band could be very good indeed.

Martin

I got a copy of the Scritti Politti book on making your own record. It's excellent - there are none available at present but I'll let you know when they are. If anyone wants to look at the book - get in touch.

Get hold of a copy of 'Culture' - a newsheet with a lot to say on Coventry - in Virgin or Intershop.

Finally, it's good to see the Evening Telegraph taking some interest in local music, even at the level it does. Perhaps that's all we can expect. Well, that's all, goodnight."



SO SQUAD HAVE NOW FINALLY SPLIT AND GONE. THEY WERE A GOOD ROCK 'N ROLL BAND. SOME PEOPLE SCOFFED BUT OFFERED NO ALTERNATIVE.

BAG ONE



BOYS

12" 45 L.P./S.P.

12" 33

Quad

14" 33 1/3 L.P.

(12" pressings)

(12" pressings)

(7" pressing)

pressing

(12" pressings)

per side

£30.00

£25.00

£35.00

and girls

The begining of October saw the release of the first Coventry compilation EP. Called "BOYS AND GIRLS COME OUT TO PLAY" on Boys and Girls records, it features 6 bands and 6 tracks. That's 18 minutes of music and a fold out poster of the bands, all for only £1.25.

First a quick run down...The HUMAN CABBAGES start the Pink side with an interesting song, slower and faster bits, plenty of keyboards and female vocals. The CLIQUE have a name change to the CLIQUE-SYNDICATE and a new (temporary) singer in Trudy from the Famous 5. Their song is fast and not as good as the Cov album track but similar in some ways. L'HOMME DE TERRE were called the FINX last issue and the music hasn't changed along with the name. Sounds like mid-'70's rock - Caron on vocals. The Blue side starts with a Jam/Mod influenced song from PROFILE called "Vince", it's OK but not their best. The FAMOUS 5 produce the best song here to my mind, "Take over", which reminds me of the Monochrome Set, jolly good song etc. Finally FIRST OFFENCE's song is "Hammer and Sickle" which is a standard pop song, energetic, but their new stuff is better.

The bands are all fairly new ('cept the Clique) and their enthusiasm shows, so who cares if the musicianship isn't grade 1.

The idea for the E.P. came from Guy of Profile who wanted to put out a record but couldn't afford it! One reason for the record was that all Profile are around 14/15 yrs old and it is difficult for them and their mates to get to and play gigs. Guy put a notice in the June issue of A.S. and got a reply from Steve of the Human Cabbages. Between them they arranged the other 4 bands, then had a meeting in the Bear (pub) where the two members of Profile got thrown out! This was at the end of July.

The recording was done at "Sinewave Studios" in Brum (Tel. 021-449 1248 - £8 an hour), the record was then mastered at MSR (Tel. 94 32468) and pressed at "Statetune" (Tel. 0933 77442) - recommended for small quantities.

All this came to around £600 for 1,000 copies, so each band have put in £100. The sleeve was printed at the same place as this here magazine. They are trying to distribute the record through friends, at gigs (where they will be a bit cheaper), local shops, and will try a few places like Rough Trade.

The idea is to put out another compilation EP if this one sells alright, there are already a lot of bands interested. Steve said that they would spend more time on the recording in future so the tracks wouldn't be so rushed.

Well, I think that this record is something really good. They have got up and done something, shown you it can be done and you don't need a lot of money to do it. Who needs compilation albums when you can have compilation EPs a lot quicker and a lot cheaper. Let's hope you all co-operate by buying the record or recording something for one yourselves.

If you have difficulty in getting a copy, send £1.25 plus 20p postage to Steve Teers, 10 Asthill Grove, Coventry, and he will send you one.

Production Masters

Reference Acetates (Demo's)



Guy

Stereo/Mono

Max. Time

Double Side Single Side

per Si

min

come out to play

7" E.P. 45

7" L.P. 33 1/3

10" L.P. 33 1/3

12" L.P. 33 1/3

£14.00

£15.50

£20.00

£20.00

Clients are welcome to appointment.

Reduced rates for regular quality cutting.

a telephone for an

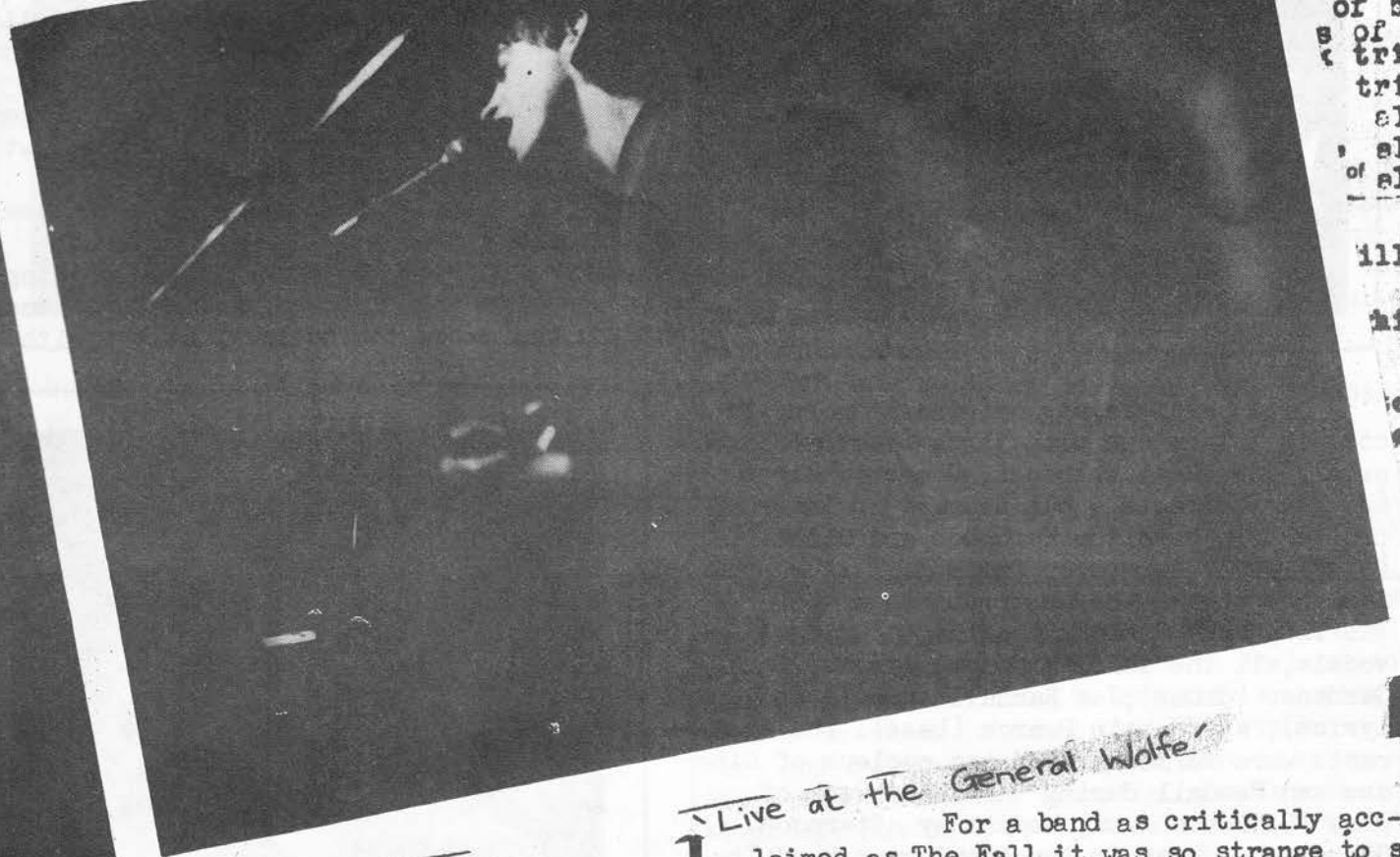
STATETUNE

The Fall

pic by Mark O.

These are your new

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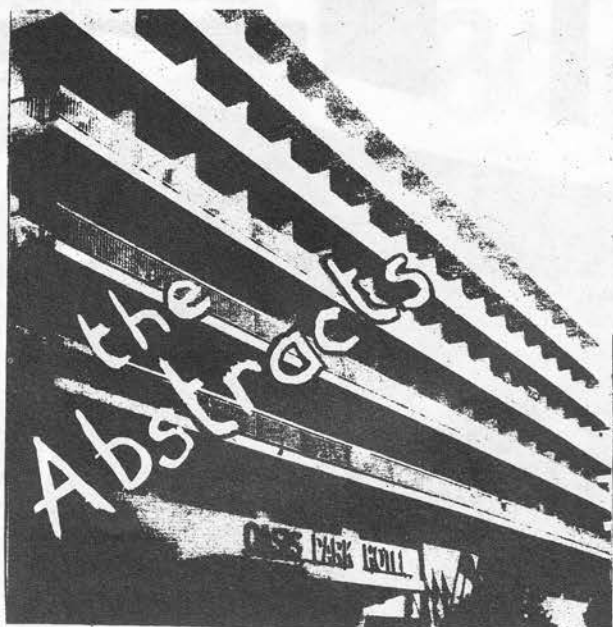
Live at the General Wolfe

Some bands just get cast aside in the chaos of doing a fanzine. One of these is The Fall. Joy Division could be the other but we have mentioned them a bit more and everyone else talks about them anyway. The Fall are one of the few bands over the last couple of years who actually mean anything. They are a band who seem not to compromise - going from Step-Forward to Rough Trade says a lot. They play just what they want to in what way they want to. Unfortunately this backfires a bit at times, certainly when I saw them play live at The General Wolfe a few weeks back. The music was excellent yet the gig had the atmosphere of a low key rehearsal. Okay, a stage show can detract/smother/hide the music but they took it to a minimal extreme and I sat down to listen to their music. Stick to the records I thought. The set was adventurous in that they did such a large proportion of new songs - supposedly to be on the soon come Rough trade LP. "In My Area", "Muzorewis Daughter", "Underground Medicin" (more?) were lines to the not-too-distant past.

For a band as critically acclaimed as The Fall it was so strange to see so few people at the gig. The Fall don't force themselves on you and perhaps this accounts for the casual following. They have had 3 albums out now "Live at the witch trials", which I prefer, "Dragnet" which is supposed to be better and the live "Totales Turns" which is a combination of new songs and old. Along with a handful of singles. If you haven't heard The Fall yet give them a try. Their songs contain a wealth of ideas carried along with enthusiasm and Mark E. Smith's excellent vocals, certainly not carried along with boring proficiency. Some of their latest material has a rock 'n roll influence. I can't say how long The Fall will be with us. The last couple of singles have not been as high a quality as the earlier stuff. The new album will perhaps answer that question.

A YOUNG PERSONS GUIDE

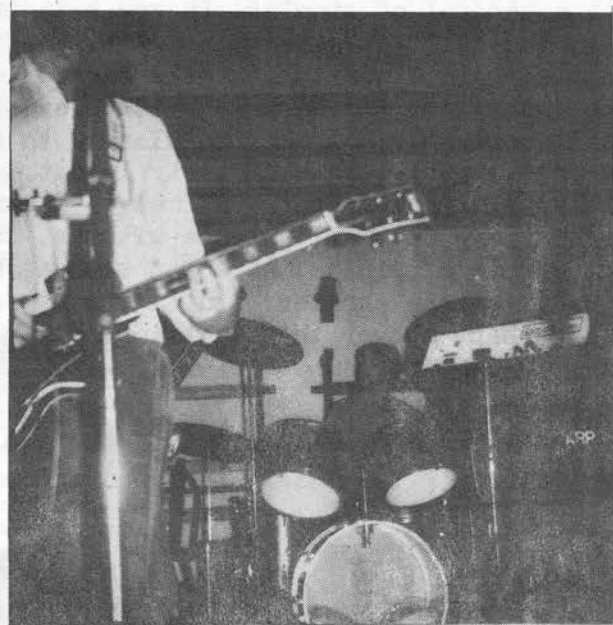
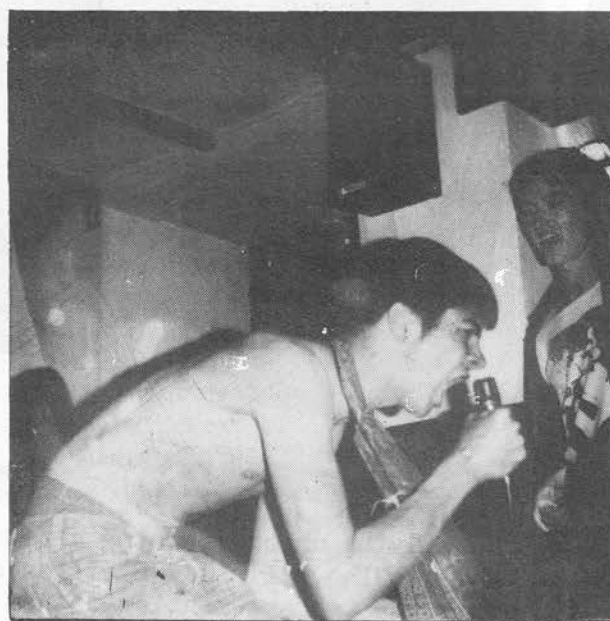
Martin.



FROM OUR LEAMINGTON CORRESPONDENT.

recluse from Shipston-on-Stour" turned up and the present line-up was complete. They played their first gig at The Toll House in Stratford in March '80. The Toll House has since closed its doors to live entertainment. It's impossible for The Abstracts to rehearse or gig very often as the only the drummer owns any instruments. They have to keep in with The Ideal Husbands in order to play gigs and are grateful to them and are very embarrassed about the live review in AS 16 which slagged off The Husbands and went beserk about them - "it's done The Husbands more good than us". The main influences on their music are The Stones, Doors, West Coast circa '67, Syd Barrett and Stratford Precinct but they've got something of themselves into the music as well - it's diverse - punk, disco, 60's pop music is all blended together into a fine set of uncompromising pop songs that you can dance to and laugh at but with

This article was originally going to contain interviews with three Stratford bands namely The Ideal Husbands, Domestic Bliss and The Abstracts - but because of internal problems in both the Husbands and Bliss (Discovery's two recording bands) this whole item has become the Abstracts interview starring Mark Gibbons (guitar, occasional vocals, all the tunes and some lyrics), Paul Gardener (drums), Jez Randall (vocals and some lyrics), and Martin Pearce (bass). The Abstracts were formed around the nucleus of Gibbons and Randall during the third week of June 1979 on a sunny Wednesday afternoon. Gibbons had been in the Leamington band The Subterraneans which he didn't want to mention "as it might put people off". With the aid of The Ideal husbands they started gigging, The Husbands providing the initial Abstracts rhythm section until Paul Gardener, an ex-Deadly Toy came along and finally Martin "a



lyrics that make you think "Good old serious fun again !". They admit to being very out of touch with what's going on in the music biz. They are all unemployed except Jez and can't afford instruments let alone records and music papers. "The nearest place to see a decent gig is Coventry and That's 20 miles away and you need a car to get there. All you can do in Stratford is drink." Gigging is a terrible problem for them. If the gig is outside Stratford they inevitably have to hitch to the gig, run through the set and learn new songs at soundchecks - the only time they can rehearse. When the gig is over they have to hitch home. Their ambitions are to own their own equipment, make lots of singles - no albums because they tend to lose energy and nobody can afford them these days, to get away from Stratford and to tour Europe "not America".

THE NIGHTINGALES

at the Star Club, Brum.

Sept '80

The Nightingales aren't the Prefects but I wonder how many people realise that tonight.

Anyway tonight this bunch are playing again at The Star Club but this time things are slightly different. In addition to having an invited audience (including a certain Mr. J. Peel) there are also a number of BBC TV cameras and their operatives intent on preserving The Nightingales in action, (though certain members of the audience seemed equally intent that if anybody was to be filmed it would be themselves.)

The reason for the cameras has a lot to do with Mr. Peel and his interest in the band having been contacted by Mr. Peel with an idea that they might compile a programme concerning various bands who have either recorded or are about to record "Peel Sessions" and the effect this has on their progress. Peel decided to include The Nightingales partly because of the two recorded Prefects sessions and partly because of the impending Nightingales recording. Anyway they played.

It's hard to avoid making the obvious comparison with The Prefects (I'm as guilty as anyone) and because of that it is hard to decide whether or not I'm actually enjoying what's on show. It's not that The Prefects were any better or worse just that they were first and the impact seems to have lessened slightly. But it's wrong to think like this as the ideas behind the two bands are completely different. Their sound tonight was the clearest I've ever heard them, meaning that each individual instrument was easily distinguished and occasional lyrics were audible. Because of this perhaps the things that stuck most were short lines from songs and titles. ("Blisters" and "Nowhere To Return") rather than the songs themselves. In fact some songs although now having definite arrangements seem still to lack a final impact.

The band seemed embarrassed throughout the half hour set though they did, at last, gave the impression that they wanted to play. However the presence of the cameras was a distraction and they were obviously relieved at the end.

So, overall The Nightingales played another "different" set showing that slow but definite progress had been made from previous times but they were still not as striking as I'd hoped or as I'm sure they will be. I've been told that I'm not "the lads biggest fan" and it's true but it's possible that if things keep on going as they are I could be and maybe be just one of many.

M.J. Silvers (Inferno Records)




The Abstracts don't know when or where their next gig will be, if things go as they are at the moment concerning no other gigging bands in Stratford, nowhere to gig or practise in Stratford, nowhere in Leamington or Coventry will consider them. The people at the Lanch described them as "not very original" in the same week they put on The Silence. They may not last much longer - don't let this happen.

The Abstracts have got talent - very few others have - especially around here.

I saw Mark Gibbons a few weeks later on one of his rare visits to Coventry. He'd just seen a well known group and didn't enjoy them - "When I see famous bands like that it makes me bitter and angry but it also gives me the determination to go on in this business because I know the Abstracts are better than the Fall".

Contact Mark at 13 Hunts Rd, Stratford upon Avon.

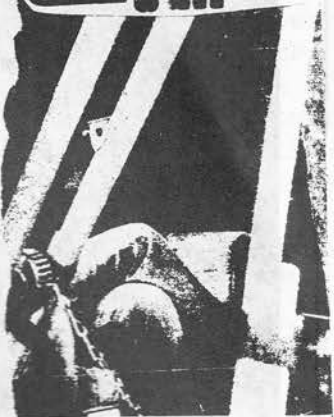





Something

Else'

community
programme
a bit




You may have heard of "Something Else" and perhaps seen some of the first series of programmes. It is a programme which allows young people the chance to have their say on that so powerful medium, the cathode ray tube. They pick on towns to base each programme on in order to distribute themselves over the country. Who are they? they are the Community Programme unit, a group of people whose job it is to get each programme together - organising as much as they need and yet leaving the important 'say' to the individuals chosen to do the programme.




Coventry was chosen to be one of the 7 towns featured in this new series, which is now showing. I was contacted and asked if I wanted to do something on fanzines. I did. A days filming in Coventry, a day down London doing the commentary and various other meetings has resulted in my 5 minute spot towards the end of the programme. It was the same for everyone. I am also doing an information sheet(s) which will be telling you how to do a fanzine, yet in a lot more detail than you can fit on a 5 minute T.V. spot. You can get a copy of that (free) sheet by writing to "Something Else", BBC TV, LONDON W12 8QT. But don't write until after the programme has gone out because it won't be ready til then.

The other articles on the programme are about - ASIAN YOUTH, perhaps a side you hadn't considered, THEATRE and how it's image is all wrong - it can be of interest to young people, a piece on the importance of MUSIC/LYRICS to young peoples lives, and an article on the problems of GAY YOUTH.



We decided what bands we wanted to play on the programme as the one stipulation is that there is to be live (not mimed) music - one famous band and one 'unknown' band, preferably from the town concerned but not necessarily. We got Siouxsie and the Banshees and Gods Toys respectively - they were filmed over at Pebble Mill a few weeks back and quite a few Cov people came over.




I think a programme like this is a really good thing - a chance for people to be actually involved with television, find out how it works, have their say, and make a programme that they themselves would like to see - funny that they are never like any other programmes you see isn't it. What do you deduce? It is the British Broadcasting Company after all - of course we should all be involved.


Two things - it is a programme that should be on more than just the occasional 7 show run, and there should be programmes like this for all age groups, not just young people. "Something Else" is a start, perhaps one day someone else will take a chance.

Remember to watch the Coventry programme, if not all the others - it's on BBC2 at 6.50pm on monday, December 15th.

Notice the graphics. Well they...



photos taken on
my days filming.
thanks to Don.



What is "Ambivalent Scale" - a record label? a tape label? publications? a group of people? Well, it's some of all of those and it's centred in Nuneaton.

It comprises a loose knit group of friends, who are all in or around the local bands. They wanted to do something in a town that didn't have a lot going on. One of the leading lights of Ambivalent Scale is Martyn Bates, who used to sing with the Reluctant Stereotypes, but left when he didn't like the direction they were going. He wanted to put out a tape of more experimental music and originally called the label "Pure Noise" until he found that Siouxsie and the Banshees publishing company was called that. His first solo tape was therefore put out on Ambivalent Scale. Martyn then teamed up with Pete Becker to form EYELESS IN GAZA who you should have heard of and who released an EP on the label. As more people got involved, they released a tape by Bron Area - one of Nuneatons best bands, then a solo tape by Pete Becker, followed by one by FANTACINI PLAYGROUND, who are... a loose knit co-op of Nuneaton musicians who assemble for gigs, rehearsals and pleasure." The STICK INSECTS released the next tape, and finally Kevin Harrison of URGE has a tape of solo work too. Eyeless in Gaza have recently put out a collection of lyrics and images which is Ambivalents first excursion into printed matter. Planned for anytime now is a tape by TRAVERS AND THE NUNS which is a tape by Dave Rogers who made it mainly to get a reaction.

Nuneatons (fan)zine, DAMN LATIN, has always had in-depth reviews of Ambivalent Scale products so if you're interested get hold of a few copies (address somewhere else).

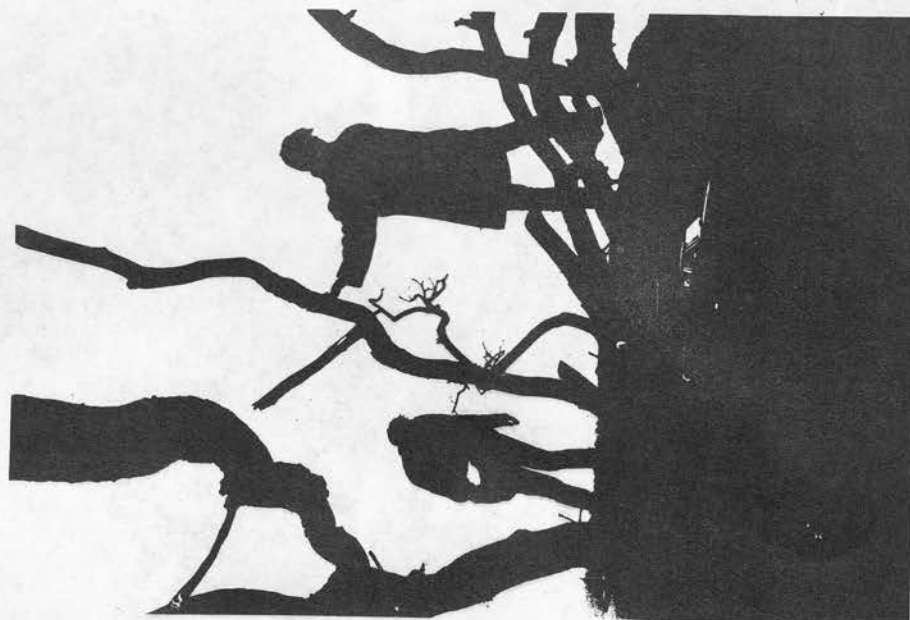
How is it done? Well, first they record their material which varies from recording studio to 2 track reel to reel to live recordings. Then they buy ordinary tapes from Virgin records or Intershop in Coventry at about 70p a time, and they transfer the recordings onto the tapes, one at a time, using 2 cassette tape recorders. This takes a lot of time and a lot of dedication. So far they have sold 50 Bron Area tapes and have got another 20 done, they have sold nearly 50 Kevin Harrison tapes, 30 Pete Becker tapes, 12 Stick Insects tapes done, and a few of the others. Although these tapes cost only about the same as the single does in the shops and contain about 10 times as much music, they have sold 1,000 copies of



Photos are of Eyeless in Gaza.

the Eyeless single and perhaps this is indicative of peoples prejudice against tapes. Ambivalent Scale shows that tapes are worthwhile, I know it's hard to get to hear tapes before buying but I'd recommend you at least get to listen to some of these.

At the moment, Eyeless in Gaza have recorded an albums worth of material and are looking for a label to put it out, as they can't afford to themselves. Bron Area are recording some of their material in the studio soon but they are not too bothered either way about records. Martyn says that they will just go on with Ambivalent Scale until they get fed up with it, which seems fair enough. That should give you some time to get acquainted. You can get some of the tapes from Virgin or Intershop in Coventry, otherwise direct by post. And if you don't want to buy any tapes (or even if you do) then Eyeless, Bron Area, Kevin Harrison, and maybe Fantacini Playground all play gigs so maybe you can get along to one of them.



AMBIVALENT SCALE

AMBIVALENT SCALE RECORDINGS

- A.S.R. 001... DISSONANCE EDIT by Martyn Bates - £1.
- A.S.R. 002... 3 TRACK E.P. by Eyeless in Gaza - £1.
- A.S.R. 003... ONE YEAR by Bron Area - £1.25.
- A.S.R. 004... THEY BROUGHT THE SPATULOSPHERE by Pete Becker - £1.25
- A.S.R. 005... MULTIPLE JESU by Fantacini Playground - £1.
- A.S.R. 006... PURITAN ETHIC by Stick Insects - £1.
- A.S.R. 007... ON EARTH II by Kevin Harrison - £1.25.
- A.S.R. 008... PLAGUE OF YEARS... Eyeless lyrics/images - 20p
- A.S.R. 009... REACTION OVERLOAD by Travers and the Nuns - £1.25

All prices include postage. Send P.O.s etc to....
MARTYN BATES, 60 NORTHUMBERLAND AVE, NUNEATON, WARCS.
Write to them anyway.

I find it hard to write this Gods Toys article. We didn't want a factual type interview as we'd done all that back in issue 6. I could tell you all about what they have been doing lately and some of you would be happy with that. I wouldn't be and neither would the band because we talked about a lot more than that and yet you can't talk about much of importance over a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon - can you?

FACTS: Gods Toys signed up to Badge Records of London in the summer of 1980 with a deal for 2 singles and a possible album. Their first single ("All the born losers") sold a miserable 700 copies and as it has had radio 1 airplay and more importantly is a good tune it has been down to the distributors fucking (miss out the *g*) things up, and the label itself not making much of an effort. I suggested a picture sleeve (disc?) would have put over some of Gods Toys vivid visuals. The next release is to be a 4 track E.P. containing... "Young and early, bright new days", "Package tours to heaven", "Everybody's got a mother" and "Rose", gatefold picture sleeve and Christmas day release date (how passé). They have used Team 23's brass section on two of those tracks. This time they are to make sure of publicity and better distribution. The band weren't really happy with the 24 track sound of "Losers" and they are now back to 8 track Woodbines.

MORE FACTS: Gods Toys have signed to the Derek Block agency who have not been much use yet. Adam of the Ants saw them and got the Toys to support them on their new 32 date tour, earning £50 per night - a good break. They are also appearing with 2 songs ("Package tours" and "Gods Toys") on the Coventry "Something Else" programme of December 15th - another break.

Why didn't you want to go on the Coventry compilation L.P.? Dill says they were of divided opinion but as a band said no - the contracts put them off a bit. Gods Toys were the missing band from that L.P. In fact they have got "All the born losers" appearing on the '101 Club' compilation, just to push that song a bit further.

Gods Toys have now been around for over 18 months, and they have still had very little success for their music, in terms of recognition or monetary reward. The national press seems to ignore them and the major labels seem to be put off by their controversial (but intellectual) lyrics - What we really want is something along the lines of... "Ooh be my baby"... that's right, sign here.

by Martin

at Woodbine Studio ↓

ARE WE ALL ? GODS TOYS

Contact Dill
047. 69600.



1. John (drums) 2. Dill (vocals) 3. Nick (Synth)
4. Chris (bass) 5. Larry (guitar).

How long will the band keep going? Dill and Nicky are both determined to carry on to the bitter end, hopefully with Gods Toys. Chris said he would maybe get a job to help him get by but still keep in there.

The first part of our interview was all you've read here. The second part is a lot more involved and may not look right on paper. I asked them an obvious question - "What does GODS TOYS mean?"

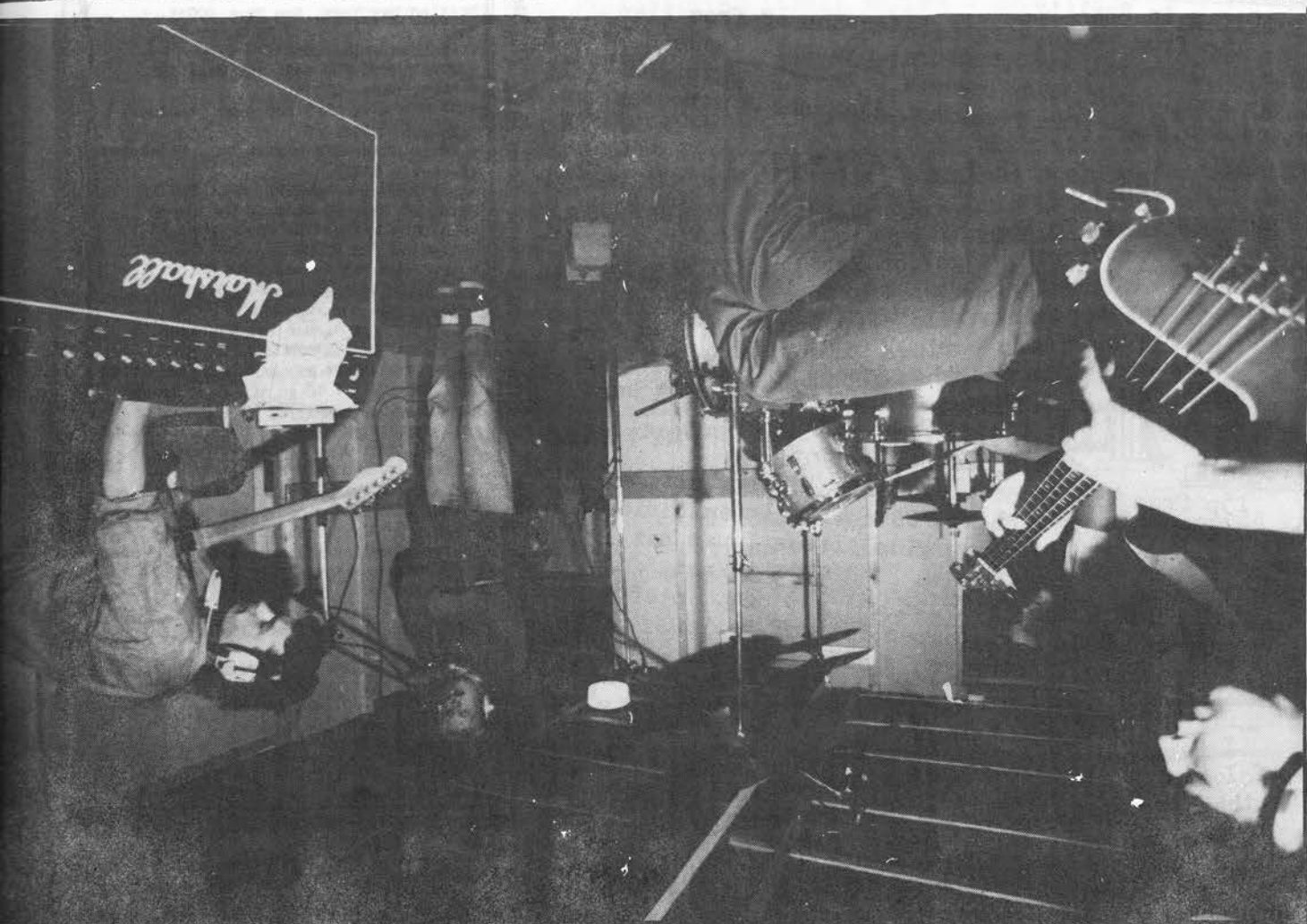
Dill did most of the talking (only 'cos Nick didn't arrive til late) and he said how he was religious and he thought we all were, indeed, Gods Toys. He claimed all the bands are religious to some degree and this is reflected in his lyrics, "I have age tours" and "Gods Toys" are two obvious examples. They have had some stick for these lyrics/views but stay by them. Dill told me how after going on a (traditional) stickers in London Underground session, they saw two men in a heated argument whether we were or were not, Gods Toys.

It is the ideas and feeling and religion that are all Gods Toys, not the business side and all the technicians and music game. They say they are not a superficial band and I know they are not lying. They are one of the few bands in Coventry that can say that. There are simply not enough bands anywhere that can say that. Nick says that the band are still writing really basic songs and really only skimming the surface of their potential. They all want a more powerful, epic sound - a "class-ic feel". Nick is probably true in saying the '80's is the age of insanity and they are going to reflect this in their music - an '80's cabaret. They are going away from the lighthearted stuff like "Let's gyrate" (my personal hate) - will you go with them?

To describe their music to the uninitiated is of course hard - Well you can dance to it and it can be happy and it can be frightening and it looks all bright colours and all dark colours and the singer dances and looks a bit mad.

Gods Toys were popular in Cov a year ago, then the popularity waned, I think it is coming back for their assault on the rest of the country. This band deserve to get at least some of their ambitions realised.

You don't have to go to church to enjoy Gods Toys.



Belfast Europe LOCAL ZINES

AD! and not-so-local →

Everyone's reviewing fanzines. It's a good thing that there are now at least a handful of local fanzines going. A quick run down goes like this...

REALITY.

Damn Latin

20p from the Wedge, Virgin, Intershop in Coventry or Phil Clarke, 14, Kingsway, Nuneaton.

This is a really good 'zine, centred on the Nuneaton scene but incorporating Coventry. Just got issue 6. A5. size, lots of reviews, interviews, cartoons! thoughts and no collages.

One Off

15p from Wedge, Virgin or from Chris, 4, Coniston Rd., Leamington. This first issue was to be the only one but success has turned Chris' head so he plans a Two Off anytime now. A photocopied handwritten affair also A5 size. Mainly Leamington but again Coventry rears its ugly head.

Transaction/terms

DAMAGED

Price

U.S. zines list courtesy (ripped off) FLIPSIDE - subscribe.

Adventures In Reality

10p from Wedge, Virgin, Intershop or from Alan Rider, 56, Cheveral Ave., Radford, Coventry. Issue B is bigger and better than Issue A, with tapes, gigs, interview, interviews, gig guide, freebies. Alan needs more support from you.

Adventures Close To Home

10p from Virgin, Wedge?, or Marilyn XXX, 6, Holloway Field, Coundon, Coventry. After the demise of Private Enterprise partnership a solo effort has arrived from Marilyn. It's much more serious with bits on nuclear war, reviews etc. Idle Rich has found a new home here.

ISSUE 2

PAY NO 12

Anti-Social

15p from Virgin or Nick Bullen, Holly Cottage, Lodge Green Lane, Meriden, Nr. Coventry. An enthusiastic 'zine from a few very young kids. Issue 1 was not on widespread release. They have been able to get 50 copies of issue 2 done so rush and get one. Interviews with Flack Off, Gods Toys, Shapes, lots of reviews. It is really refreshing, I think you should buy one.

I have not put any criticisms of the 'zines here as, if I had any, I would tell them personally and not slag them off in print.

CHEAP ENTERTAINMENT.

FANZINES

- *MODERN WORLD 2906 Fairway Dr. Raleigh, North Carolina 27603.
- *MOUTH OF THE RAT POB 415 Deerfield Bch. Florida 33441
- *BIOHAZARD INFORMAE 1301 N Mangum St, Durham, North Carolina 27701
- *SKUNK PISS 196 Hillside St. #3, Roxbury, Mass 02120
- *BLINDE BOYS GAZETTE 228 E Park Dr., Raleigh North Carolina 27605
- *SLASH POB 48888 LA, CA 90048
- *QUASI-SUBSTITUTE 4307 Date, La Mesa, California 92041
- *FINAL SOLUTION 4304 James Dr. Metairie, LA 70003
- *CLE 585 Walnut Dr, Cleveland OH 44132
- *SURFIN BIRD POB 42 Verdun Quebec, Canada H4G 3E1
- *WILD DOG POB 35253 S Post Oak Station, Houston, Texas 77035
- *VARULVEN POB 83 Tufts Univ. Branch, Medford, Mass 02153
- *CREEP POB 5528 San Fran., Ca 94101
- *TOUCH AND GO POB 26203 Lansing Mich., 48909
- *DAMAGE POB 26178 San Fran. Ca. 94126
- *OP, LOST MUSICIANS NETWORK POB 2391, Olympia, Washington 98507
- *PANIC 10577 Wellworth Ave., Los Angeles, California 90024
- *NO POB 57041 L.A., Ca 90057
- *SHORT NEWS POB 1028 Gracie Station, New York 10028
- *NEW YOUTH PRODUCTIONS POB 6029, San Francisco, Ca 94101
- *SLUGGOW!!! 607 Baylor, Austin, Tx 78703
- *NIGHT VOICES 14305 Runnymede St, Van Nuys, California 91450
- *EAST VILLAGE EYE 120 St. Marks Place, New York, New York 10009
- *TALK TALK POB 36 Lawrence, Kansas 66044
- *SMEGMA JOURNAL POB 421 Maumee, OH 43537
- *SMEGMA THE MAGAZINE POB 400 Old Chelsea Station New York, New York 10011
- *NATIONAL PLAGIARIST Rd 2 HWY 206, Vincetown, N.J. 08088
- *SUBWAY NEWS POB 149, 118 Mass Ave, Boston, Mass. 02115
- *NOT NEW WAVE NEWS POB 4982 Boulder, Colorado, 80302
- *LISTEN HEAR 3878 N 85th St., Milwaukee Wisconsin 53222
- *AWAY FROM THE NUMBERS CALL EDITOR PETER AT 714-560-0590 in San Diego
- *FLATDISK NEWSLETTER 6230 Afton Pl, Hollywood, Ca 90068
- *VAGUE POB 251 Norwalk, Ca 90650
- *HATES IN IRAN (Comic Book) 5201 W 34th, Box 316 Houston Tx 77092
- *JETT SET 127 Harrow St. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 2X9
- *CHEAP AND NASTY 239 San Jose, SF 94110
- *TEEN SCREAM 89 Queen St. #6, Toronto, Ontario Canada M6J 1G5
- *MERSEYSIDES GREATEST Lehter StraBe 68, ROB 41, 3000 Hannover 73, W Germany
- *DICKIES FANCLUB 7826 Cleon St. Sun Valley, California 91352
- *TARGET VIDEO 678 South Van Ness, San Francisco, Cal 94110 (415)431-7595
- *BLANK IDEAS 9135 Johnnycake Ridge Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060
- *BAMALAMA 5411 Russel Ave #2, Hollywood, California 90027
- *DESCENES 5018 8th Road, South, Arlington Virginia 22204

THE FANZINE PRESENT + INTO T

ANTI-SOCIAL

TOP PRESS: Just got a copy of THE GORDIANS KNOT, a new Cov 'zine which is v.good. Available from Virgin/Wedge or from Graham Hopkins, 37 Royal Crescent, Weeford Estate, Coventry.

Do - it - Yourself

This brief article is meant to be an introduction to starting a fanzine. I am going to be writing an information sheet to accompany my bit on doing a fanzine for "Something Else". This will be available after the programme goes out - that's on Dec. 15th. In the meantime here are some ideas. If anyone does want further info. they can get the free info. sheet from the BBC (I don't think I'll have many) or write, (enclose S.A.E. if possible) phone me and I'll do what I can to help (within reason).

Well, no doubt you'll know why you want to do a fanzine and what you want to put in it. I'm not here to tell you that - you can write about anything that you want and it doesn't have to be music. Even if you know how to do a 'zine, have all the facilities etc., the first thing might be confidence to do one. Well if you want why not get a few people to help you and you can do a mag together, that way all the workload/worry doesn't fall on you - make sure it doesn't. You'll find out who your friends are. Later still you'll put them to the test as you attempt to sell them a mag. The big problem is of course getting the first issue out because once this is out then you should be well known and get offers from all over. Well it isn't quite as easy as that but if you stick at it you should get some return.

You're going to need some materials to make the master copy in the first place - pens, pencils (not biros as they photocopy badly) a typewriter is desirable but not essential, especially if your handwriting looks good. Someone with a camera is going to come in handy and don't forget paper to the size of your mag.

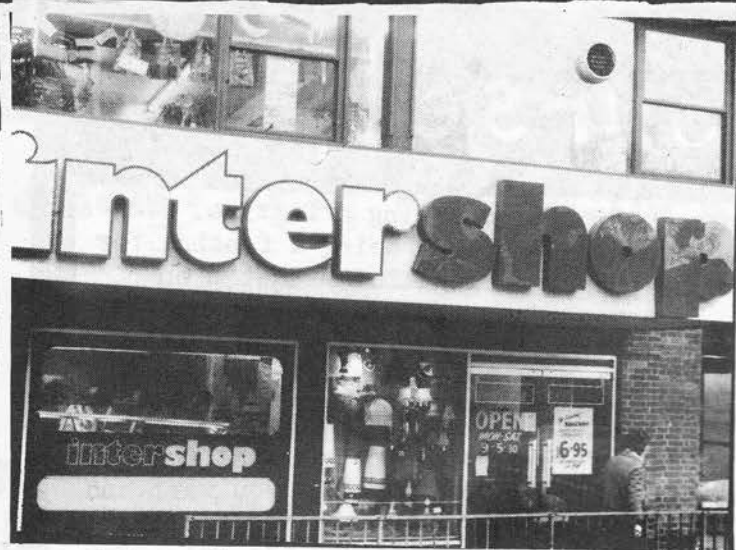
Before you work out the number and size of pages (A4 is the usual size) you will need to know what the printing is going to cost. This is the big thing and varies too considerably. If you're only getting a small amount of mags printed (say up to 100) then photocopying is your best bet. Photocopying itself varies a great deal - ask around for prices. The quality is not brilliant with photocopying, especially of photos, but it can be OK. for larger amounts printed then offset printed is the norm. This is done at bigger printers usually. Again ask around for prices - try the yellow pages. Ideally you can try and get your printing done at a discount otherwise, for a smaller print run, which is all a fanzine ever really is, the cost is going to be a bit much and you may never be able to afford many issues. Some people get part of their 'zine photocopied for nothing or done on a spirit duplicator or have a friend who works at a printers. It's a matter of time so be prepared to accept a loss at first in the hope the right contacts/deals will come later.

Why do you make a loss? Because fanzines are all cheap and nasty little things aren't they and no one in their right mind would pay more than 20p for that little rag would they? Thing is, if it costs 30p to print a few page mag you probably will have trouble selling it unless you charge the same price or less for it. There are other costs to take into account such as transport and materials but these should be minimal with a bit of scrounging. I bought a long-arm stapler for £10 but you can use a normal stapler if you staple down the edge. Don't print too many of the first issue as you don't know how well it will sell. I got 100 copies of AS no. 1 done - which was 12 pages photocopied and cost me £25 (18 months ago). We sold out so got another 100 done.

The final stage is selling the magazine. This depends to some extent on what's in it. If it's all local music then try local record shops. Whatever it is you can see if Better Badges, 286 Portobello Rd. London W10. and Rough Trade, 202 Kensington Park Rd., London W11 will take some - they take 50 a piece of AS. Bear in mind that these places will take a cut of the money when pricing your mag.

Well it's nearly the end of the page so I'll be off, I hope I haven't put you off doing a mag as it's all much more fun than I've made out. Have a go - anyone can do one. Send me one if you do.

start your own 'zine



A long time ago we did an article on Coventry record shops, well let's face it there's not much you can write on them is there? Since that article (in issue 4) Jill Hansons has shut down and the others seemed to lose their taste for the hard-to-get independant singles (we all know some of the best records are on small labels don't we). Then late last year a new record shop opened it was more of a stall as part of Intershop trendy market (hands up those who thought Intershop was a freezer centre). It is run by Mr. Chris Kingham and his skinhead assistant and it has turned out to be one of the best record shops in Coventry.

Anyway to get to the point, it was suggested by the manager of The Silence (another mention - you can put this page in your scrap-book lads) that I write something on this shop so here you are.

Chris said he originally wanted to set up a tape bar, selling all kinds of tapes to the masses and asked in Intershop about the possibilities. He was on the dole at the time but had about £1300 saved up towards a house so with that he bought a selection of tapes from TDK and Sony and a (very) few shop fittings from someone out of the yellow pages. He had £900

left and it was quickly suggested that he start selling records too. He did. He contacted a variety of retailers and ended up with a selection of oldies and newies. At first he had a lot of chart stuff then he got in touch with Inferno who deal with mainly independant record records. A badge/patch dealer also started supplying him with stuff and Chris says this takes up a fair proportion of his sales. Especially last year with two-tone tribal gear.

Chris gets some records sale or return, or he swops unsold records for different ones. In this way he doesn't get stuck with too much surplus. They get in quite a few import albums which often have an extra track to the English version and, suprisingly, are cheaper.

As the indie records sold well Chris has got in more and more and dropped nearly all the chart records. It is the best shop in Coventry for small label stuff no question. More recently Chris has been selling rare

records - demo's, limited editions, etc... and he's had more people bring in stuff so you can pick up some hard to get hold of stuff in his shop. He goes over to Brum every so often too, to get hold of anything he sees of interest.

At the time of writing singles in Intershop cost 99p and albums are very cheap, usually around £4 at least a pound cheaper than most shops. If you are saying "Ah, but I bought The Cockney Rejects album for £4 in HMV" remember that those are discounts on chart albums and all shops compete in that market - it is worth it for them as they sell so many chart albums. Chris cannot afford to keep up with all that. His idea is to have a discount record shop where you don't have to pay too much for a record just because you didn't buy it within the first 2 days of its release. Don't go to Intershop for chart albums go to Intershop for records you really want.

In the future Chris would like a shop of his own but of course the costs in the town centre are maybe too much. At the moment his shop pays the £40 a week rent at Intershop but he says he doesn't take a wage just living off the odd disco he does (yes a man of many talents).

He also has thoughts about a record label when he hears something good enough and when he has the money ready. Hopefully he'll get round to that as soon as possible.

Finally Chris would like suggestions for a name for his shop as he hasn't really got one. Take / send your suggestions to him and he'll take your name and the one chosen will get a free album. A choice of "Johnny Mathis' Greatest Hits", "Bing Crosby Live" or anything they want. GO TO IT!



HITS, MISSES and VINTAGE RECORDS have opened a new (large) branch of their shop in Coventry - next to the Belgrade Theatre - check it out. What next - chain stores! Now, move to next page.

Cassettes. Cassettes. The big new thing or the small new thing. Yeah of course cassette music is an excellent idea/advance. What is needed though is some form of quality control - this means being able to hear the music before you buy it - this is all that is needed to cut out the crap merchants who are allowed to wallow in this area. (not that they don't infest the record industry too). Some exposure for cassettes on the radio is essential, but plays at discos, and some reviews by the national music press would go a long way to help - not just a passing 'Garageland' mention.

This is a great 'new' medium and it would be a pity to see it go under.

FANTACCINI PLAYGROUND - The Multiple Jesu C30
for this + Stick Insects see Ambivalent Scale page.

On this recording F.C. consist of Steve Parker (Bron Area), Pete Becker + Martyn Bates (Eyeless in Gaza) and Phil Clarke (Stick Insects and Damn Latin). Distinctive Ambivalent graphics. Notes...

"Even between two people in love" - moody atmospheric, floating synth + keys. Wailing. Rattling. Nice synth tune. Arabian? goes on a long time.

"Jesus 1." - more danceable, synth - bit formless, like a practise.

"I'm Hungary" - slowish - repetitive - more vocals, modern gothic sounds, drones, church synth over - good.

"The four chambered heart" - instruments drag along. Noise! odd vocals. Not V. good.

"To Shannon Smith" - funkier, bouncier, squeaky, sounds from the walls. Songs are similar in style - wailing.

"All the children are screaming" - distant voices, blurred sounds, past history - good for images - nice if there were more visuals to go with them.

"Jesus 2." - better version than the 1st one. Talking poem? over synth drone and odd playing. You can hear the words.

"Kara Face" - jungle drums, synth tune, catchy song, vocals good.

"India shadows and rain" - Someone like Dean Martin sings over synth noises and treated voices come over top (reminds me of T. Gristle a bit).

"Childhood Disco" - Disco! song finishes off - not too impressive, bit formless again.

There are some interesting ideas around on this tape. If they could take them a bit further and make them more solid then that would be excellent. In the meantime try this tape.

THE STICK INSECTS - Puritan Ethic.

30 minutes of Phil Clarke and Alison Walling and various Ambivalents. My notes...

"Formula" - funky disco number complete with embarrassing whistle, bashes along, not really impressed.

"No reply" - bit Joy Div - excellent keyboards, dreamy effect.

"Gain" - slow song, nice bass, guitar is too like a kids twangy guitar.

"Moving walkways" - another Joy Div - but more catchy - more excellent keyboards - can we have you in our band Steve?

"T.V. game" - another slow one - quite melodic, more keyboards (silly T.V. game sounds come in at end).

"Refraction/Egyptian" - more synth, quirky sound over keyboards, instrumental, repetitive.

"Videotape" - instrumental, wandering.

"Disco shaver duette" - a variety of shavers get played over a repetitive beat, mind you it could equally well have been hair-dryers. An idea.

"No reply/2" - instrumental version with silly synth noises.

"That's what you wanted/Outer limits". Another funky number, mainly instrumental, vocals come in at end - not too bad, flows along nicely, ends with a clip from Outer Limits.

What can I say? - it's worth a listen. Some ideas that need working on.

CRYPTIC CLUES - Half Alive. C30.
£1.00 from A. Colegrove, 14 Clarence St, Nuneaton, Warks.

This is a demo tape of "basic ideas" by Cryptic Clues who are Simon Lawrence and Tony Colegrove. They have an open membership which means that anyone who has some good ideas is invited to join them. With the tape you get a small leaflet with the track listing, explanation about the tape, info on the 2 members, a list of previous tapes, what equipment they used and a contact address. The tape itself is well recorded despite what they tell you on the leaflet and consists of simple effects, mainly electronic, that seem to be concentrating on rhythms rather than melodious music. As it is a demo it is quite promising if they could expand more in the music lines. Other than that it is enjoyable listening. The tracks I preferred were "Crystal heart" which had an insane feeling about it, and the more wierd electronic "We are your future". You'll have to hurry up and buy it 'cos it will be deleted on Jan 1st '81.

Formed Jan/Feb 1980 with influences ranging from the Beatles to the Cockney Rejects, the band play intense action music and have plenty to say. They want a record deal - independant or major - they couldn't give a fuck and at the moment are only into releasing singles. The album bands are coming back which means shit, shit and more shit - singles and D.I.Y. cassettes are far more important. The lads favour no particular music and are willing to support anyone! Their first gig was at the end of May and they're into double figures already with a lot more to come. Their 11th gig featured spray painting and tapes on stage and more

experimental shows are planned for the future, all done on a shoe-string budget, keeping the original punk ideals alive. The band reckon fanzines are THE MUSIC PRESS and an ambition is to appear in every 'zine going. So far all gigs have been down South London/Essex/Kent and they even turned down a Marquee slot 'cos they missed a weeks rehearsal. Sam writes most of the material + Joe and Rob add contributions as well. Some of their songs - "In my minds eye" (probably the single), "That girl's got flowers in her hair", "We want out", "Streets of today", "Day the world stopped".

FANZINES



an article written by/for/about BIFFBANGPOW! they are the same people that bring you 'Making Time' - see below.
Ltr R. Mark/Rob/Joe/Sam N/.

BIFFBANGPOW!

Here's a load of new fanzines I've got hold of since giving you that big list last issue. Room to say a bit about them this time. — — — — —

MAKING TIME No. 6

20p from 34, Cobblers Bridge Rd., Herne Bay, Really great value, 52 pages on famous bands and not so famous bands, some local some not, cut up collages, lots of fanzine reviews. — No. 7 just out.

TRENDS No. 12

10p from 7, Solway Close, Bolton, BL3 3JR. 12 pages well printed at Better Badges, lots of news on local bands, national bands cassettes, records, some politics.

FLIP SIDE No. 19

75 cents (about 40p) from P.O. Box 363 Whittier, California 90608. 30 pages of California news, lyrics, records, famous names, gossip - send for one and find out about the real American culture.

READY TO RUCK No. 2

25p from Joe Knight, 22, Brabner Close, Folkestone, Kent. The new 16 page issue is recommended to anyone in Coventry as it has Gods Toys and Criminal Class articles in it along with gig reviews, more famous names and lots more.

FAST FORWARD No. 1

25p (5/-) from Patrick Bloomfield, 103, Colborne Way, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 8NG. An excellent first issue, good printing and layout - lots on cassette music an article on The Civil Servants more, more.

GETTING NOWHERE FAST No. 1

15p from 13, Foxthorn Paddock, Badger Hill, York. A 20 page A5 mag with news from York record reviews, gigs reviews, from the same 'zine called "Bit of Culture".

ANOTHER PRETTY FACE INFO SHEET No. 1

Not a fanzine but 2 A4 sheets of information on the band, lyrics, news, images. This is something more bands could do - why wait for other people to write about you? It's free from APF, first flat, 16, Cadzow Place, Abbey Hill, Edinburgh

SMART VERBAL No. 4

20p from 33, College Rd., Moseley, Birmingham. A good mag from Brum which encourages readers to send in stuff - lots of poems, pictures and reviews. You can get it in The Wedge in Cov.

Remember when sending for any of these 'zines to include postage or an S.A.E. - about 15p should be about right. They are all well worth buying.



The Civil Servants were featured in the first A.S. band index in August '79, yet they still haven't played a gig. So why are they in here? Well, they're in here because a few months ago they released a C60 tape of their music. It is called "The noise from beneath the carpet tiles" and costs only 50p from...41 Adelaide Court, Bedworth, Warwickshire. Titles are "Global Warfare", "British Summertime", "A story", "Control", "Good Friday", "Freon", "We'll think of something", "The news", "Alone again" and "Alternative Sounds" which is about this paper and we have reprinted the daft lyrics for your amusement.

Their music is strange and at first inaccessible, but it does grow on you. There are synthesisers mixed in with guitars and less usual instruments. The tape contains mainly instrumentals with odd snatches of vocals - Cabaret Voltaire, Throbbing Gristle area of sounds. They describe it as "avante garde, loose and free-form".

The Civil Servants have sold 66 tapes so far, and best news is the letter they got from Yamm Farcy - a Frenchman who is involved running "Sordide Sentimentale", the people who put out singles by Throbbing Gristle and Joy Division. He said... "The tape gives the impression that we are running in the dark with our eyes closed and something or someone unknown is after us".

Yes, quite: he went on to say that he was interested in putting out a record of some of their stuff, although he thought their music needed some more vocals and that some of the pieces were too long. He is going to do a collage advertising their tape in his fanzine "Isolation Intellectuale".

The Civil Servants have been a two piece for most of their life: Drai Neddy on guitars and synth and hunting horn, Plague Dog on bass and duck call. This was who recorded the tape, however since then they have added a drummer, Eggy, and a singer, Carol. This will perhaps give them a more orthodox sound, we will have to wait and see. They will be digging into their (literally) hundreds of songs to produce a tape for early next year. They also like the idea of going on a compilation EP, and plan to gig next year, the first gig will be a specially invited affair though.

Their own cassette label "Flat records" (so named because their tape was recorded in Drai Neddy's flat) will be used to put out some other tapes by other bands. At the moment they have a tape planned by a group called "Q.S.L. 漢口平" and a tape by another called the "Russian Royal Family". There will also possibly be a fanzine of images to go with their first tape.

That should be enough to keep you all busy for a while.

The Civil Servants are a band that are going about things in an unorthodox way, both in their music and in the way it is put across. They create interesting music. Does it make you think? should it?

I hope the Civil Servants want a few more than 66 people to listen to their music - perhaps you could. That's all.

Age limits Nationality Appointment Security

"ALTERNATIVE SOUNDS"

Alternative Sounds is our fanzine
It's the best you've ever seen
It comes out once a month
And it's only 20p

Martin is the editor
To send your letters to
He prints them on the third page
And on the second one too

And then there's Mark Osborne
With his camera in his hand
Pen and paper at the ready
To slag off another band

Alternative Sounds is our fanzine
It's the best you've ever seen
It comes out once a month
And it's only 25p

It has reviews of the local bands
And of the local scene
And it tells you where you saw the bands
In case you don't know where you've been

It comes out in tabloid size
Or sometimes in A4
And with so much in it
Who could ask for more

Alternative Sounds is our fanzine
One of the best you've ever seen
It comes out occasionally
And it costs you 30p

Commonwealth



Changes in Government organization

Probation and trial period

Liability to transfer

Retirement



TOP LEFT : PLAGUE DOG
TOP RIGHT : CAROL
MID RIGHT : EGGY
BOTTOM RIGHT : DRAI NEDDY.

standards



SILENCE

There are a lot of bands in Coventry at the moment, but not many good ones. The Silence are one of the good ones. They comprise...

Rob - Bass and backing vocals
Trev - Drums (and percussion)
Tony - Lead guitar
Fred - Rhythm guitar and vocals
Blu - Friendly advice.

Rob, Trev, Tony and Fred all met up at school (Well Rob and Fred met up a bit earlier, 'cos they're twins!) and at the moment they are all 17 year old apprentices. They started in August '79 playing covers of Stranglers, Clash, Damned songs at their rehearsals. By the time of their first gig around Xmas last year they did a few of their own songs - "Suicide", "Trap", and "Normal People".

The Silence played their first "public" gig at the Zodiac in March? of this year and this time they played all their own songs. They were supposed to support the Neon Hearts that night but the superstars never turned up so the Silence ended up

playing to a packed house of disappointed Neon Hearts fans. They went down well though playing a set of 8 fast tunes (and reviewed in issue 15) well rehearsed as they had been spending 4 nights a week bashing away under Trevs garage. One of the audience was Blu who immediately threw away a promising career with the International Megastars in order to become their manager. Four weeks passed before he realised that they weren't in fact the Neon Hearts.

The band now have 12-15 songs, written mainly by Fred and Trev tho' Rob is chipping in now, and Blu wrote the lyrics of "Dark room dame". They say they are always arguing at their practises but reckon it's better than bottling it up. Their set consists of ... "lots of fast songs and a few slower ones" ... titles include "Amnesia", "Normal people" (which is about the woman next door who burst into tears after a week of loud band practises), "Frustration", "No more", "Young Russian" (what they think it must be like

for a young person living in Russia). Some people compare the Silence to Stiff Little Fingers, there may be a vague resemblance with Freds rough vocals but the band reject the comparison, they say they are trying for an individual style and definitely want to progress all the time.

The Silence count Blu as a member of the band as he does a lot of work for them, doing posters, arranging gigs, getting badges done, helping at sound checks - generally taking all that work off their shoulders.

They have played about 20 gigs, all round Coventry, and they like playing but don't think much of the apathy of gig goers in Coventry. They have a lot of people coming to their gigs but few regular fans or following. They want to charge as little as possible at gigs, and have cancelled a gig at the new Belgrade venue because they were not allowed to reduce the regular admission charge of £1. They want to play occasional under 18 gigs too which is a good thing.

The band have recently recorded a demo tape at Woodbine Studios, which was 3 tracks "Suicide", "Frustration" and "Young Russian", a varied selection of their music, they say it could have been better but was OK for the first time in the studio. It cost them £68. They want to do a single and will try to get a company to put one out first, they won't use those versions though, they'd want to re-record them.

The Silence have all bought good gear for themselves and say that it is essential for them. They would like to put on a good stage show in the future but haven't money for lights effects etc at the moment. They realised the

need for this after the first time they played the Lanch Poly main Hall as they felt lost on the large stage. They think the main hall is too big and prefer the smaller venues at the moment. The group all think that when they play

live it's more important to jump around, have a good time, entertain etc than to stand still playing perfectly - leave that to records and I agree.

At the moment the Silence are getting quite popular in Cov and this is shown by the fact they have had loads of phone calls from groups wanting to support them.

They all would like to make a living out of their music, although they were divided about whether they would leave their apprenticeships because they would have something to fall back on if they stuck at that until they got some qualifications. Rob said he would leave at the first chance, go and play all over the place even abroad, sleeping rough. The others weren't so keen but they are only 17 so there's time for all that.

Finally, they want to point out all the hard work they, and other bands, put into their music, for very little in return - and they say that people should realise that and make an effort themselves - at least make an effort to

go and see them - can you drag yourselves away from the telly?

Well, if you can, go and see them while they play in Coventry. If you live in another part of the country then you'll have to wait - unless you arrange a gig for them yourselves that is. Phone Blu on (0203) 597341. Where do you get your hair cut Trev? ... "You trying to be funny..."

ARTICLE BY MARTIN
PHOTO BY ROB
A SILENCE BOOKLET OF PHOTOS
AND INFO. IS NOW AVAILABLE
FOR 10P. TRY INTERSHOP IN
COVENTRY OR PHONE BLU.



At the moment I think the records coming out are pretty boring and so I can't write much. I've been mainly catching up on oldies. EMI sent me 3 compilation albums.

BOUNCING IN THE RED is a ~~comp~~ compilation featuring bad songs from famous names. It is the opposite of the Coventry LP. Steel Pulse, Steve Gibbons, Ricky Cool, UB40 etc.; the newest bands, the Denizens and Dangerous Girls. Even they are unusually bad. These bands didn't need this LP and neither did Brum. Somewhat better is **THE UNOBTAINABLE T.REX**, a compilation of T.Rex B-sides - some of these are excellent but some are awful. A patchy selection which will only appeal to fans.

The third LP is the best of Steve Harley and **COCKNEY REBEL**. This contains some excellent stuff, I thought it would be so I'd recommend you buy the singles selection instead. Gods Toys fans no doubt already own one. Destroy. Your old 900mph punk that went down really but it isn't as good as I thought it would be so I'd recommend you buy the "Psychomodo" album. The Dead Kennedys album was one I was really looking forward to after the singles promise but it is a bit of a let down. It's all a bit rushed and samey. Your old 900mph punk that went down really but it isn't as good as I thought it would be so I'd recommend you buy the "Psychomodo" album.

The **LOUDER ANIMAL GROUP** are a band who have brought out a package called "The Fossil Record", it is a flexi disc of that song plus 2 colour/collage posters. Unusual, EN2 307. The **OBSCURE** "This Age" not my cup of tea this record, it was sent to me by Gary of "0533" fanzine. A Leicester band who play 2 slow sax-orientated songs, too laid back for me, perhaps not for you. The album does grow on you, it includes versions of **THE DAMNED** "History of The World" is crap, isn't it - sounds like a poor imitation of The Damned. I got the **ANTI-PAJATI 4** sore points EP which is like Discharge but better. "Real punk" as they say, it sounds great for a few days but then gets boring. A bit shallow but powerful drums and you can dance to it. The tracks are all similar in some way so if you like one then you'll probably like the lot. You have to treat this album as a whole and not skip tracks. It merges in the same way that The Cure's "17 Seconds" does. Finally Cherry Red sent me a copy of **THE GLAXO BABIES** - "Put Me On The Guest List" LP (only £2.95 to you). It's a good album - a collection of early material when Rob Chapman, their vocalist was with them. It appears to be he who wrote the songs and this no doubt accounts for their material nowadays being so bad (in my opinion). This has different versions of all 4 tracks and that's all the records I should have been: despite its joined-together feel it's essential for some of you. That's all the records I can remember. Buy local groups' records in preference or they might never be able to make another one.....





.....and what of the Wild Boys. What have they been doing recently. Well you probably know they signed with Cherry Red earlier this year, but Cherry Red decided to put all their energies (and money) into the Dead Kennedys so the Wild Boys got left out.

So a few weeks ago the Wild Boys left their label, bringing with them all their master tapes, including the rights to "We're only monsters" and "Lorraine" off the compilation L.P. and Cherry Red will be holding on to publishing rights for a year yet. Although the Wild Boys had signed their contract, Cherry Red had kept the contract but never signed it - a sneaky way of never actually signing the group unless it was in their great interest to do so. The moral here is that the group should have asked for a copy of the completed contract.

Anyway, after that set-back, the Wild Boys are going to put out their own single on their own label - "Ringpiece Records". Their manager, Paul, is putting up the money for the single which will cost nearly £1,000 in all. It is to be a 2 track single with a new (improved) version of "We're only monsters" plus "Last one of the boys".

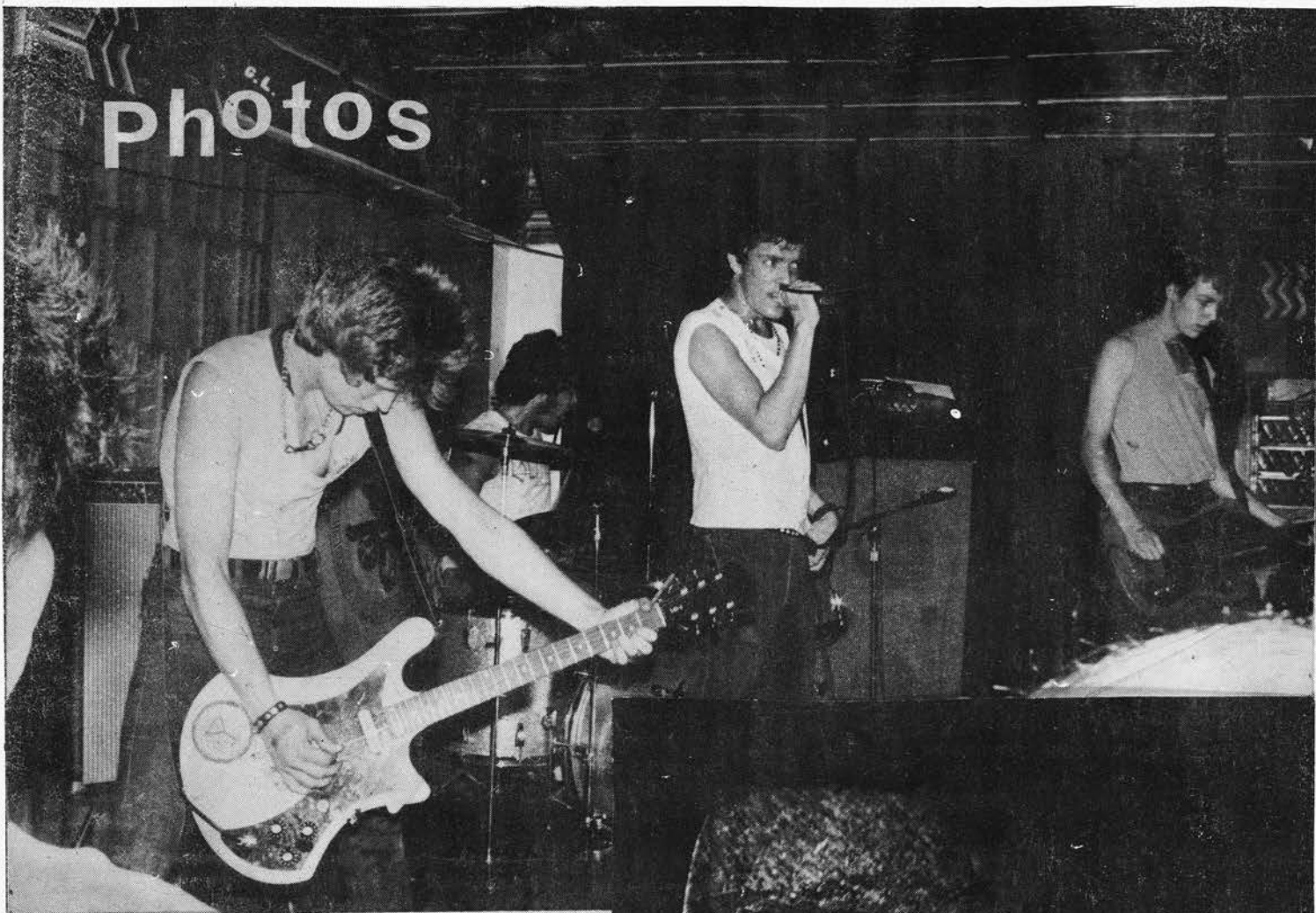
Distribution will be by Rough Trade and Pinnacle and Cherry Red will help a bit. They hope it will be out by the time you read this.

The Wild Boys have been playing a lot of dates around the country lately, and less in Coventry - which is how it's got to be. They tend to leave out some of the earlier songs when they play Cov in favour of newer ones as we've all heard the old ones haven't we. They have had people contact them about gigs and some they get themselves. In fact since the compilation L.P. came out they have had a few people write to them - "fan mail" as Johnnie says, some fanzines etc.

Johnnie said that for a while this year they were at a low ebb, waiting for Cherry Red who weren't doing anything, they started neglecting practises and getting missed more at gigs, but now that's all gone as they are starting afresh. They have been going for nearly 2 years now and hope that either this single, or a follow up will help them make it bigger, whether it does or not Johnnie is happy to go on playing the same sort of rock 'n roll music they do now, 'til he dies at least.

They are getting in touch with some agents to see if they can get anywhere, meanwhile they keep gigging regularly and I look forward to hearing that overdue single.

photos



Top - The Gears.
 Above - The Allycats
 Right - The Wierdos
 pics of 3 L.A. bands
 sent to us from Pete
 of "FLIPSIDE".
 Above/Right - Mr Dammers
 photographed at the Lanch
 by Pete Chambers.

